

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

February 29, 2000

FROM: RUDY LOPEZ, Director
Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENT A-1 TO MORONGO BASIN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, INC.
AGREEMENT 99-379**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve amendment A-1 to Agreement 99-379 between DBH and Morongo Basin Mental Health Services, Inc. in the amount of \$86,823 for the provision of mental health treatment services to recipients of California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) in the Morongo Basin area.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On August 22, 1996, President Clinton signed into law welfare reform legislation known as the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act. To comply with the provisions of the Federal legislation, California passed Assembly Bill 1542 on August 11, 1997. Assembly Bill 1542 renames the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) to the CalWORKs program. Included within AB1542 are provisions that mandate mental health treatment services to recipients of CalWORKs cash assistance. This program is intended to provide treatment of mental or emotional disabilities that may limit or impair a CalWORKs recipient's ability to make the transition from welfare to work or retain employment over a long-term period.

On July 7, 1998, the Board of Supervisors (BoS) approved Agreement #97-595, Item 47, which is an ongoing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County's Jobs and Employment Services Department (JESD), which administers the CalWORKs program, and DBH. The MOU's purpose is to ensure that an effective system is available to provide for the treatment of mental or emotional disabilities that may limit or impair a CalWORKs participant's ability to make the transition from welfare to work. The MOU allows for services for subsequent years and/or amendments to be created by written mutual consent by the directors of both JESD and DBH. On October 19, 1999, Keith Lee, Director of JESD, and Rudy Lopez, Director of DBH, signed an updated MOU for services through June 20, 2001. The update established the DBH CalWORKs program budget for FY99/00.

Morongo Basin was chosen as the Contractor for Morongo Basin because they are the sole Contractor able to provide the appropriate MOU defined mental health treatment services in the desert area. They are responsible for accepting CalWORKs referrals from JESD for mental health evaluation; assessing CalWORKs participants to determine if mental health barriers exist; determine level of said mental health needs and appropriate level of treatment and rehabilitation for participants; provide an array of mental health services designed to provide time-limited assistance; provide necessary counseling; and assist participants whose mental illness makes them unemployable to apply for SSI benefits. The Contractor provides JESD with a program report for each CalWORKs participant served during the term of this contract. The report

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includes time spent in treatment, type of services delivered, participant's progress and status, treatment interventions completed, and, whether employment was obtained (if known).

Since implementation of CalWORKs (January 1999), there have been 778 referrals to DBH. These referrals came from all four CalWORKs locations, including Morongo Basin, which is utilized for an area difficult for DBH staff to serve. Counties statewide are reporting that CalWORKs participants have multiple barriers and are rotating through a wide range of services and agencies.

The purpose of this amendment is to fund an increase in CalWORKs services in the Morongo Basin. Since July 1, 1999, Morongo Basin Mental Health Services has received 74 new CalWORKs referrals without an increase in staffing. These additional funds will allow Morongo to dedicate one full-time and one part-time counselor to the CalWORKs program. With these additional counselors, Morongo will be able to double the number of CalWORKs clients they provide services to.

The existing agreement with Morongo Basin Mental Health Services was approved by the Board of Supervisors on May 25, 1999, in the amount of \$171,356 (\$85,678 for FY 98/99 and \$85,678 for FY 99/00). Amendment A-1, when approved by the BoS, will increase the contract by \$86,823 for a revised amount of \$172,501 for FY 99/00, with a total contract value of \$258,179.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This agenda item has been approved as to form by Deputy County Counsel Charles J. Larkin.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There is no impact to local cost funds with this action. DBH's cost to serve CalWORKs clients will be reimbursed by JESD via the HSS Administration Approved FY 99/00 Budget.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): Third

PRESENTER: Rudy Lopez, Director

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